

## Deer Herd Counted . . .

(Continued from page 2-D)

men taking part in the count walks along in front of the jeep and has an automatic counter in each hand. On one counter he keeps the number of southbound tracks noted in the dragged portion of the road. With the other counter he tallies the number of northbound tracks. At the end of the day the southbound tracks are subtracted from the northbound, with the balance indicating the approximate number of deer which moved north during the 24 hour period.

The men point out that a deer is not tabulated for each track noted in the dragged strip. Walking deer may leave as many as three and four tracks in the strip if their feet are properly positioned when they start across. In such cases where it is obvious that one deer has made several tracks, only one animal is recorded on the counter.

The track counting bed made by the fire is approximately 36 inches wide, or a sufficient width to record the tracks of a walking or trotting deer. The average walking step of the adult deer is 18 inches, while the trotting step averages 28 inches. It is pointed out that very few deer run across the counting bed because there is very little to disturb them.

As the count is made, the tracks are erased and the track bed prepared for the next count. The following day the other half of the road is counted. The daily net totals of north bound deer are then brought into the master total for the overall migration.

A crew of two men handles the count, and makes camp in a forest service cabin midway within the counting area. A crew spends a week on the counting strip, and then is relieved for a week by a second crew. Horses are used for the dragging operations during the

early spring when road conditions are extremely poor and the snow packs persist.

The biologists point out that the trail count actually presents a conservative number of deer making the migration because some of the tracks are washed out by rain and melting snow, some tracks are not properly indented into road ice and hard surfaced portions of the road, and because large numbers of deer quite often cross in single file at one point in the road.

At the same time the count is being made, the biologists employ the track information for computing the herd composition as to doe-fawn-buck ratios. The biologists also see a large number of deer and record information on the condition of the herd and to some extent the conditions of the ranges they are using.

The track counting operation was launched during the spring of 1947. The following results have been recorded over the years:

|               |
|---------------|
| 1947—10,826   |
| 1948—9,665    |
| 1949—13,256   |
| 1950—13,256   |
| 1951—17,570   |
| 1952—10,547   |
| 1953—11,601   |
| 1954—17,615   |
| 1955—17,170   |
| 1956—12,240   |
| 1957—11,695   |
| 1958—13,164 x |

The biologists point out that in the past the pellet group counts were used to estimate the deer populations. Now that only the key management areas are sampled each year by the California department, the pellet count is used only as an indicator of the trend in deer use of given types of range.

Complete details on this year's deer count will be available when the operation is completed.

## New Group May Take Over Modoc Irrigation District

By JIM PHILLIPS

A group of Chiloquin area farmers and landowners have started the ball rolling to form a new organization that would take over the Modoc Point Irrigation District.

The federal government intends to cease operating the district sometime after next August, when termination will be effected at the Chiloquin reservation.

The district with all its facilities would be turned over to the new organization, if it can be formed and if it agrees to reimburse the government.

Otherwise, according to Lyle Haas, temporary secretary of the backing group, all salable equipment and tangible assets will be sold. The funds so received will be applied to the total amount the government feels it is entitled to for the district.

To get the balance remaining, the government will file liens against property in the district, Haas said.

The government estimates it is entitled to some \$600,000. This figure is out at some \$113 per acre for the 5,600 acres in the district. Stretching the cost over a permissible 40-year period, yearly payments to the government for these existing installations would come to \$3 per acre.

This amount would be in addition to regular operation and maintenance costs of some \$4 per acre, the present rate, plus charges for future additional construction. Current construction costs are \$2. Haas said the backing group is hoping that the interior department appraisal committee will appraise the district's facilities and that the interior secretary will then adjust the \$600,000 figure downward. The secretary has a right to do this if it is deemed a hardship would otherwise prevail on owners.

"We feel that \$600,000 was spent on the district," Haas said, "but we don't feel there's \$600,000 of value received."

In order to form a new irrigation district under Oregon law, it

is necessary first to file a petition with the county court. An election then must be held among owners in the district. It would be held within six months after termination. Until it could be held, the government would continue its operations.

If the new organization is formed, the present name of the district will not be changed. Neither will its boundaries.

Prime crops grown in the district include barley, cattle, alfalfa and grass.

Robert Doak is temporary president of the sponsoring group.

## Deer Feeding Under Study

The chemistry of shrubby plants has much to do with their use by deer, according to the Wildlife Management Institute. Which species of shrubs provide, from the nutritional standpoint, the requirements of deer is the subject of a research study being conducted at the Colorado Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Colorado A&M. College in Fort Collins.

Emphasis is being placed on the plants' chemical complex during the winter, the season when deer are hard pressed for food. Standard laboratory analysis of five key winter browse species — big sagebrush, mountain mahogany, bitterbrush, serviceberry, and Gambel oak — has been completed. No single browse species will provide the nutrient requirements of deer for an entire year but the initial findings of the study indicate the best plant species to carry deer over the critical winter period.

Of the five species tested, big sagebrush ranked first in the winter in protein, phosphorus, carotene, crude fat, and mineral content of ash residues. It ranked last in calcium content and crude fiber, neither of which are important. Changes in plant chemistry make big sagebrush more palatable for deer during the winter than any other season.

Big sagebrush provides the most protein for deer, a vital nutrient, during the winter when it is needed most. The rating given big sagebrush in this study points out a fallacy in the widespread sagebrush eradication campaigns being sponsored by several land management agencies in the West.

## Watch For Bloat, Farmers Advised

Now that cattle and sheep are moving onto lush pastures, farmers need to keep a special alert for signs of bloat and be ready to take prompt emergency measures against it, according to a bulletin by the American Foundation for Animal Health today.

Bloat is caused by an accumulation of gases. It most frequently occurs among cattle and sheep pastured on alfalfa, clovers, peas and other legumes. The pre-bloom stage appears to be more dangerous than the mature plants.

The foundation listed five precautions which should be taken to combat the bloat problem:

1. Supply cattle and sheep plenty of rough, high-fiber hay before turning them into legume pastures.
2. Keep dairy cattle and sheep off legume or young grass pastures, if possible, until after morning dew has evaporated.
3. Inspect cattle and sheep on legume pasture three times a day during the peak of the bloat season.
4. Get some type of bloat remedy from the veterinarian and keep it on hand for emergencies. This may help to stave off death temporarily, until the veterinarian can get there to administer proper treatment.
5. Time is a vital factor in saving animals affected by bloat, so every moment gained increases the chances of saving the animal.



**ORPHANED AT BIRTH**, this Hanford Laboratory lamb is being fed by former Portlander Dianne Chubb. The lamb is a late addition to the flock raised for experimental purposes by scientists at the Atomic Energy Commission's huge Hanford plant in Eastern Washington.

## Crop Testing Underway

**YREKA**—As a followup to years of work in a continuing program of testing crops and fertilizers on the soils of the Butte Valley area, farm advisers Mac Maxwell and Bill Rudiman of the Siskiyou County office of the Agriculture Extension Service of the University of California, have recently established test plots near Macdoel and in Red Rock Valley.

On the John Archibald ranch near Macdoel, the two farm advisers are testing seven wheat varieties to determine adaptation and yields of each of the varieties in comparison with established varieties in Butte Valley. The varieties being tested are Romona 50, White Federation 54, Pose 48, Baart 46, Onas 53, Big Club 43 and Pacific Bluestem 37. These variety trials are being conducted in conjunction with the agronomy specialists of the University of California.

Exploratory fertilizer trials are being conducted by the Siskiyou County farm advisers on the Carroll Robinson Ranch in Red Rock Valley. These tests are to determine which fertilizers and rates of application give the best results with spring sown wheat.

Results of the tests will be made known when they have been completed and results evaluated. They will serve as a basis for recommendations made by the farm advisers in the future.

### MACHINE MONOTONY

John Detlie, prominent Seattle architect, says the human eye never seems to tire of looking at the endless patterns of natural grain and texture of wood paneled walls. But, he says there is a deadly monotony in machine-made materials which have identical shape, texture and coloring. Some woods, such as west coast hemlock, have an astounding versatility of grain.

## Want To Buy A Farm? Here Is The Way

For the man who wants to buy a farm, the agriculture department has wrapped up a lot of advice in an eight page leaflet.

It's called "Where and How To Get A Farm." And it's designed mainly for town and city people interested in farming.

The leaflet points out that the federal government can't help anyone locate privately-owned farms for sale. But it tells how to go about finding out about available public lands and where to get information and advice on farming and farm credit. The leaflet is for sale for 5 cents by the superintendent of documents at the Government Printing Office in Washington.

**COVER BOX PHOTOGRAPHER** Don Kettler had a mighty pleased subject when he went to work with his Graphic this week. Gary Barker, 11, had just returned from the state marble eliminations at Jantzen Beach where he won the Class A marble championship. The Class A competition was for boys 12 and under, and the Class B included youths 13-15 years of age. Barker was defeated in the shoot-off with the Class B champion for the right to participate in the forthcoming national meet at Phoenix, Arizona.

## Late Spring Spuds To Come From Cal

California is expected to produce about two-thirds of the nation's late spring potato crop this year. California's late spring crop is forecast by the crop reporting service at 18,980,000 hundredweight.

This is seven per cent less production than the 1957 crop even though the acreage for harvest is up nine per cent at 73,000 acres. Low yield prospects, dropping from 305 bags per acre last year to 260 bags per acre this season, are caused mainly by late planting and soil compaction.



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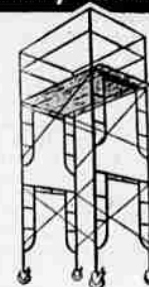


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